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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

INTELLOFAX 13

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Oder River Pontoon Bridges

DIST. 7 November 1947

PAGES 2  
 SUPPLEMENT  
 ATTACHMENT: Map

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- At the end of July 1947, 128 men from Dobrilugk, Kirchhain, and the surrounding district were conscripted for labor by the Soviets and transported to Frankfurt/Oder. They were quartered in huts at Schwetig and forbidden either to move about or to converse with local inhabitants about their work.
- On 30 July they were set to work building a pontoon bridge over the Oder, 1,500 m. south of the main railroad line from Frankfurt/Oder to Reppen. Subsequently, two more pontoon bridges were built at three-kilometer intervals in a southerly direction from the first bridge.
- The procedure used for constructing the bridges was the same in each case:

The banks were revetted on both sides in such a way that after the necessary levellings and sinkings, approaches were constructed and strengthened from the bank outwards by rammed-in piles. The first pontoons were anchored by concrete piles which were sunk on both sides of the approaches. The remaining pontoons were then attached and made fast with section irons and ground-anchors. The iron framework was fastened to the pontoons by screws. A six-meter wide plank track was then laid across the section irons. Those pontoons which obstruct navigation can be floated out of the way when necessary.

- The building material and pontoons were all brought by land or river transport from Stettin. Construction was carried on simultaneously from both sides of the river, on the west bank by Germans and on the east bank by Poles. Soviet engineer officers were in charge and the work was patrolled on both sides of the river by Soviet sentries.
- Two more pontoon bridges were also observed north of the Frankfurt/Oder - Reppen railroad bridge; the first about 800 m. and the second about 1,300 m. from the railroad bridge. Work on these bridges was carried out by a different working party.
- [redacted] more pontoon bridges are being built over the Oder as far as the mouth of the Neisse but no details are known.

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7. The Frankfurt/Oder - Reppen railroad bridge, which had been damaged, has been completely restored and extended to carry four lines of traffic. It is of iron framework construction and takes heavy loads in both directions simultaneously.

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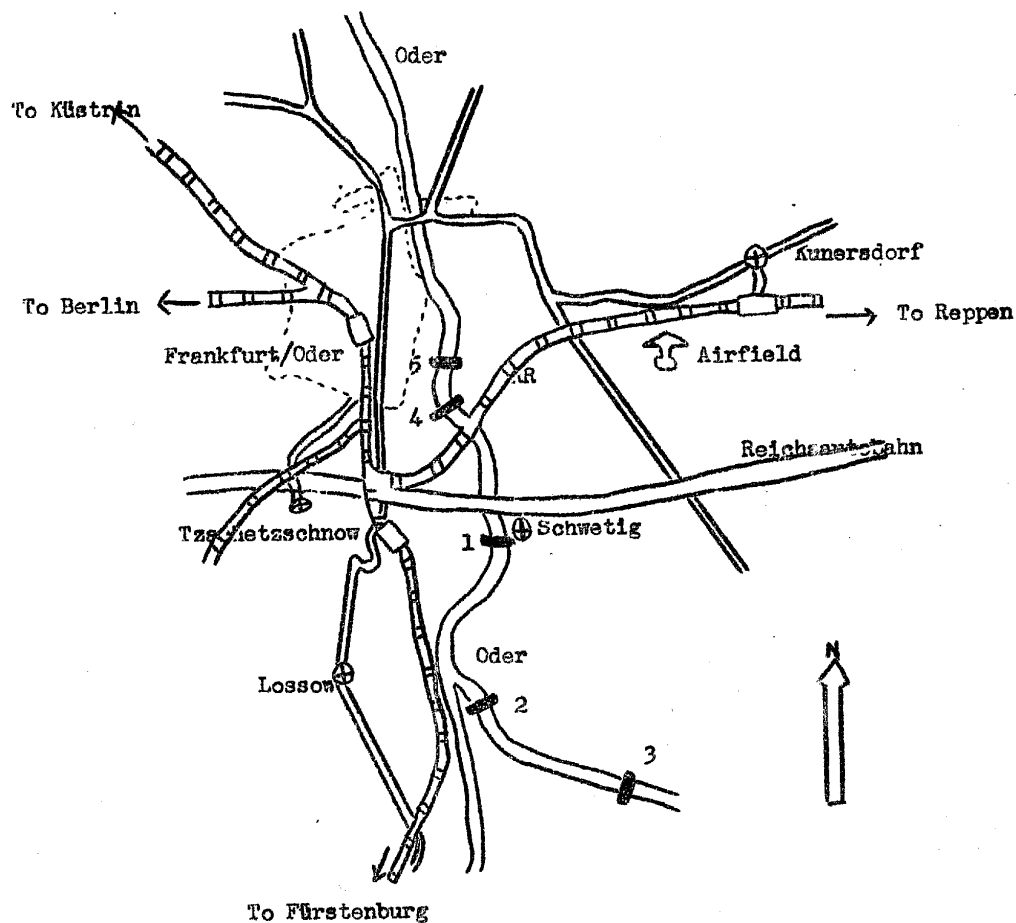
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ATTACHMENT: MAP

Highways, Railroads, and Bridges near Frankfurt/O



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